

Case studies for the effectiveness of the farm apprenticeship program in Hualien and Yilan areas¹

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore the current situation of trainees in Hualien and Yilan in agriculture, their previous experience in participating in the farm apprenticeship program, and related suggestions for the program, in order to explore the effectiveness of the program. This research adopts a qualitative research method. The trainees who are currently working in agriculture in Hualien and Yilan areas after the internship are selected as the interviewees. A total of 4 interviews were conducted. The obtained data were analyzed according to the research purpose planning. The results of the study found are listed as followed. (1)The motivations of the interviewees from farming and participating in farm apprenticeship include: changing the career path of the workplace, loving nature and a free life, referring to the suggestions of relatives and friends, wanting to engage in healthful work. (2) The assistance received by the interviewees from the apprentice farm includes: increasing knowledge and honing skills, developing their own potential, continuously receiving the assistance of the farmer, and confirming the business model that suits oneself, all of which are conducive to their own agriculture business. (3) Interviewees suggested that trainees should work hard, study with an open mind, and think about the purpose of farming and choose a suitable apprentice farm. Farmers should not treat trainees as laborers, and should take mutual benefit as the prerequisite. (4) Difficulties encountered by interviewees during the apprenticeship include muscle strain due to improper application of force and insufficient farm work items. Once the students are familiar with farm work, he lost his motivation to stay on the farm. Based on the foregoing results, this study puts forward three recommendations for reference.

Keywords: young farmer, farm apprenticeship, farming and staying farm, the Farmers' Academy, management capacity

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